

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 BONN 03796 01 OF 02 021908Z
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
-----021929 117224 /46
O 021856Z MAR 77 ZFF 4
FM AMEMBASSY BONN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 6093

S E C R E T SECTION 01 OF 02 BONN 03796

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, UG, US, GW
SUBJECT: PRESIDENTIAL MESSAGE TO AMIN

REF: STATE 44797

FOLLOWING IS AMBASSADOR ELLERKMANN'S REACTION (FRG
NUMBER 95) TO DEPARTMENT'S INQUIRY RAISED REFTEL:

BEGIN TEXT:

"1. CONSIDERATIONS ABOUT TRANSMITTING A
MESSAGE FROM CARTER TO AMIN THROUGH THE
UGANDAN CHARGE IN WASHINGTON OBVIOUSLY DERIVE
FROM THE DIFFICULTIES I HAD IN DELIVERING THE
FIRST MESSAGE TO AMIN. IN THAT REGARD, I
STILL DO NOT KNOW WITH CERTAINTY WHETHER THE
NON-TRANSMITTAL OF THIS MESSAGE WAS DUE TO:

A. AN ACTUAL BREAKDOWN AND AMIN REALLY
DID NOT KNOW THAT I HAD A MESSAGE FOR HIM,

B. THE FACT THAT AMIN DELIBERATELY
WOULD NOT SEE ME, BECAUSE HE DID NOT WANT TO
SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 02 BONN 03796 01 OF 02 021908Z

RECEIVE THE MESSAGE THROUGH ME, OR

C. THE FACT THAT AMIN AT THIS TIME
WAS NOT READY TO RECEIVE ANY MESSAGE FROM
CARTER. IT CAN BE SAID RE ALTERNATIVE
(B) THAT AMIN IS EXTRAORDINARILY SUSPICIOUS
OF ME PRECISELY BECAUSE OF (OUR) ASSUMPTION

OF THE ROLE OF PROTECTING POWER FOR AMERICANS,
AND THAT HE WANTS TO EXCLUDE GERMANS
FROM CARRYING OUT PROTECTING-POWER RESPONSIBILITIES,
JUST AS IS THE CASE WITH THE FRENCH WITH REGARD
TO THEIR REPRESENTING THE BRITISH.

IN VIEW OF THE ABOVE UNCERTAINTIES, CARTER'S
MESSAGE SHOULD BE TRANSMITTED TO AMIN THROUGH
THE UGANDAN CHARGE IF IT CAN BE ASSURED IN EVERY
RESPECT THAT THE MESSAGE WILL REACH AMIN PROMPTLY
AND WITHOUT DIFFICULTIES.

2. HOWEVER, IT MUST BE TAKEN INTO ACCOUNT THAT
PASSING CARTER'S MESSAGE THROUGH THE UGANDAN CHARGE
IN WASHINGTON MAY POSSIBLY TEMPORARILY WEAKEN THE
GERMAN EMBASSY'S POSITION AS REPRESENTATIVE OF THE
PROTECTING POWER. IN THE SAME WAY AS HAPPENED WITH
THE FRENCH AS PROTECTING POWER FOR THE BRITISH, IT
CAN BE ASSUMED THAT AMIN IS ONLY GRUDGINGLY PREPARED
TO RECOGNIZE, AS SUCH, THE FACT THAT THE GERMANS ARE THE
PROTECTING POWER FOR THE AMERICANS. TO THAT EXTENT,
USE OF THE UGANDAN CHARGE - WHICH IS CERTAINLY A NORMAL
DIPLOMATIC PROCEDURE - WILL WITH CERTAINTY FIT INTO
AMIN'S PLAN TO CIRCUMVENT THE GERMAN ROLE AS PROTECTING
POWER FOR AMERICANS, AND THEREBY INCIDENTALLY TO
UNDERLINE THE NECESSITY OF REOPENING THE AMERICAN
MISSION IN KAMPALA. ONLY THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE
CAN JUDGE WHETHER THE TACTICAL ADVANTAGE WHICH AMIN
WOULD THEREBY GAIN AND WHICH HE WOULD POSSIBLY EXPLOIT
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PAGE 03 BONN 03796 01 OF 02 021908Z

FOR PROPAGANDA IS ACCEPTABLE FOR AMERICANS.

3. IN THIS REGARD, IT MUST BE CONSIDERED WHETHER
TRANSMITTAL OF A MESSAGE AT THIS TIME WOULD STILL HAVE
ANY PURPOSE. A FRIENDLY AND DETAILED MESSAGE, IN
WHICH APPRECIATION AND THANKS FOR AMIN'S PROMISES TO
AMERICANS ARE EXPRESSED, WOULD CERTAINLY PLEASE AMIN
AND COULD CONTRIBUTE TO A FURTHER DEFUSING OF THE
SITUATION IN THE INTEREST OF THE AMERICANS LIVING IN
UGANDA. THE SAME COULD BE SAID FOR A CLEAR ASSURANCE
THAT AT NO TIME WAS A MILITARY INTERVENTION CONSIDERED.
IN THE MESSAGE, HOWEVER, EVACUATION MEASURES AND
READY-TO-GO BALAIR PLANES SHOULD NO LONGER BE MENTIONED.

4. IN THIS REGARD, IT COULD BE IMPORTANT THAT
AMIN AGAIN USED VIOLENTLY ANTI-AMERICAN LANGUAGE IN

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PAGE 01 BONN 03796 02 OF 02 021906Z
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
-----021927 117198 /41
O 021856Z MAR 77 ZFF 4
FM AMEMBASSY BONN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 6094

S E C R E T SECTION 02 OF 02 BONN 03796

EXDIS

TALKING TO THE SPECIAL ENVOY FROM THE RWANDAN CHIEF OF STATE. HE SAID HE WAS IN A POSITION TO BEAT BACK ANY AMERICAN INVASION. UNFORTUNATELY, AFRICAN LEADERS HAD - HE SAID - ALLOWED THEMSELVES TO BE MISUSED AS 'TELEPHONE OPERATORS' AND 'MESSENGERS' OF THE AMERICANS, WHEREBY MOBUTU, NIMEIRY AND KING KHALID (SIC) WERE OBVIOUSLY MEANT. IT CANNOT BE EXCLUDED THAT THIS WAS A REACTION TO A RADIO REPORT TO THE EFFECT THAT IN ZURICH A BALAIR PLANE WAS STANDING BY TO EVACUATE AMERICANS FROM UGANDA. SINCE THE ENTEBBE OPERATION OF THE ISRAELIS, AMIN HAS BEEN EXTRAORDINARILY SUSPICIOUS OF UNSCHEDULED AIRPLANES. IN VIEW OF THE FACT THAT THIS EMBASSY KNOWS ONLY VERY FEW AMERICANS WHO WOULD LIKE TO LEAVE UGANDA AND THAT THOSE WHO WANT TO LEAVE UGANDA CAN DO SO, IT WOULD BE BEST NOT TO TRANSMIT THIS REPORT.

5. IN GENERAL, I AM OF THE OPINION THAT, IN THE EVENT A NEW MESSAGE IS SENT, IN THE INTEREST OF THE AMERICANS LIVING IN UGANDA IT SHOULD BE FRIENDLY, DETAILED, AND IN THE USUAL FORM WHICH IS CUSTOMARY HERE. AS FAR AS MY PERSONAL READINESS IS CONCERNED, YOU MAY ASSUME THAT I SHALL GLADLY TRY TO DELIVER SUCH A MESSAGE. ELLERKMANN.

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PAGE 02 BONN 03796 02 OF 02 021906Z

END TEXT.

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: REPORTS, CITIZEN PROTECTION, HUMAN RIGHTS, DIPLOMATIC COMMUNICATIONS, FOREIGN INTEREST REPRESENTATION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 02-Mar-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 22 May 2009
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977BONN03796
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770072-0194
Format: TEL
From: BONN
Handling Restrictions:
Image Path:
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Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t197703102/aaaadmju.tel
Line Count: 172
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: f95188ac-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION SS
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 4
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Reference: 77 STATE 44797
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 10-Mar-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2944337
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: PRESIDENTIAL MESSAGE TO AMIN
TAGS: PFOR, UG, US, GE, (ELLERKMANN, RICHARD)
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odhc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/f95188ac-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009